

Metro Chicago

eWind

*Suddenly there was...a strong wind blowing, and...
they were all filled with the Holy Spirit... (Acts 2:2-3, TEV)*

Weekly Electronic Newsletter of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago
A patchwork of varied news and announcements
from our churches, communities, denomination and other organizations,
covering a wide variety of interests reflecting the diversity of our region

September 3, 2008

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9

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ABCMC NEWS

Save the Date

Hold the dates October 3-5 for a spectacular spiritual renewal weekend.



More information will be in the next issue of *eWind*.

Christian Financial Stewardship in Difficult Economic Times

TO: Clergy and Lay Leaders of ABCMC
FROM: Larry Greenfield, Executive Minister
RE: Stewardship Seminar

I hope you are making plans to attend our Third Annual ABCMC Stewardship Seminar on Saturday morning, September 20, at Third Baptist Church.

There's an announcement about this Stewardship Seminar in this edition of e-Wind, and again you can download an attachment of the poster for posting in your church.

Our theme this year is extremely relevant: **CHRISTIAN FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP IN DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES**. I don't think there is any doubt about the conditions we face in our economy, whether we are individuals, families, churches, or church-related organizations. The question we have to face is how do we continue to sustain our ministries in these circumstances.

I am pleased that we have such terrific leaders in the field of stewardship to help us address that question. Let me introduce two of them to you briefly:

Lawrence E. Wilson III is the Executive Vice President of the American Baptist Foundation of our denomination. With a degree in economics from Drew University and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and a successful career in marketing and public relations in some of the country's largest corporations and significant cultural and educational institutions, he brings an unusual set of gifts to our seminar this year. Besides that, he is a person of vision for our ABCUSA ministries.

Larry Robinson is one of our own in Metro Chicago. He has a deep dedication to the church and its ministries. And in recent years, drawing on his experience at Second Baptist Churches of Wheaton and other congregations, he has developed an amazing set of resources for churches who are committed to Christian stewardship, which are now being used across the country and around the world. Entitled "More Than A Gift," the program Larry has developed is based on a rich array of biblical teachings that are made applicable to everyday life of faith.

I hope you and members of your congregation will be sure to take advantage of this timely and important opportunity.

Stewardship Seminar

CHRISTIAN FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
in
DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES

Third Annual Stewardship Seminar
American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago

Saturday, September 20, 2008
9:00 a.m. – Noon
Heritage Plaza Center

1500 W. 95th Street
Chicago, IL 60643

How can the ministries of Christ's church *not* suffer when members of congregations are themselves hurting financially in tough economic times?

Attend the Third Annual Stewardship Seminar of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago to be equipped for:

Church Budgeting in Lean Years
The Annual Stewardship Campaign
Stewardship Education for the Whole Year
Benefiting by Becoming Congregationally Green
Gift Planning and Planned Giving
Giving to Those Who Need Our Help
Preaching and Teaching Stewardship

A free seminar designed for church leaders who accept the challenge of securing resources to support the opportunities for ministries and missions of congregations.

Make reservations by calling (773-804-1655), faxing (773-804-1656), or e-mailing (office@abcmc.org) the ABCMC office.

(Free parking at Third Baptist Church, 1551 W. 95th, east end of the parking lot.)

A flier is attached with this issue of *eWind*. Please print, distribute and display the flier. Above all, please come to the event.

Celebrate ABC Christian Education Sunday September 21

"Teach your children well" --and youth and adults, too!

This month's Christian Education Sunday, September 21, is an excellent opportunity to focus your congregation, whatever their age, on the importance of learning and growing in the faith from birth to old age. Christian education doesn't have to mean only Sunday School - in fact, if it does, your congregation is probably missing out on some excellent opportunities to challenge people to open their minds and let a fresh wind of the Spirit blow in (and perhaps even blow some cobwebs away)!

Celebrate faith formation this month in whatever form it takes in your congregation:

- an ABW group learning about a need in the world and taking action;
 - your youth group traveling to the National Youth Gathering or working with Habitat or a food pantry;
 - the church council studying how the Bible informs a decision they are laboring over;
 - a study group learning about various ways of praying as they practice lectio divina on Tuesdays;
- and, yes, Sunday School and study groups of all sorts for all ages!

This might also be the perfect time to pick up some resources that will help your church's Christian educators assure that curriculum materials align with your congregation's understanding of Christian life and faith formation. The Judson Press book, *Christian Educators' Guide to Evaluating and Developing Curriculum* will do just that. This highly practical resource includes reproducible worksheets along with workshop designs and questionnaires that help identify educational goals and match materials to your purpose. Why not order it for your Christian ed folk today?

Have more questions? Remember that ABC-MC congregations receive consulting in Christian education at no cost! Contact Rev. Denise Janssen, Christian Education coordinator, to take advantage of this service (phone 708-955-8913 or email revdlj@att.net).

Artwork of Pastoral Counselor on Display at the Billy Graham Center

This article is from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, where Esther earned her Master of Divinity degree.



Pastoral Counselor Esther Kim Min is very interested in God's plan for the artist.

An artist herself, Esther paints pictures that people can connect to scripture to experience the Gospel in a different way than they would at church.

When asked about her work, Esther has plenty to say, "People now use the visual more and more, using computer screens and television every day, but sermons are still only hearing. Visual is ten times more powerful than hearing."



She hopes that God will use her work to change people, that they will be moved for Christ in a new and powerful way. She feels that people can relate to the people that they see in pictures.

However, her interest in this subject goes beyond the impact of her own work. While she first came to the US to gain a Bachelors degree and then a Masters degree in art so she could return to Korea and teach, God had other plans. She went instead to Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and went through the Korean program that the Seminary had at that time to gain her Master of Divinity. Now, Esther works with students at the Art Institute of Chicago, where she got her own undergraduate degree, helping them combine their faith and their art.



"There are a lot of artists that went to a good school and have a great gift from God, but they don't know Jesus," Esther comments. She is currently working on expanding her ministry with students, as well as displaying her own work. Currently, four of Esther's paintings are on display at the [Billy Graham Center](#) at Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL. The paintings will be there until September 8. Those interested in Esther's student ministry can contact her at estherdmin@gmail.com.



Palacios Wins Second Annual Contest Pastor Conducts Song During Seventh-Inning Stretch at Wrigley

The article below is from Major League Baseball. Faithful Cubs fan and ABCMC staff member Tony Rake was watching the game at which the events described took place. He reports that Gonzalo Palacios did a wonderful job, one of the best Tony has seen. Gonzalo is pastor of the Hispanic ministry of the First Baptist Church of Waukegan.

By Nick Zaccardi/MLB.com

CHICAGO -- Gonzalo Palacios had God, MySpace and the USS John C. Stennis on his side. No way was he going to lose this contest.

Palacios won the second annual "Baby Ruth Ultimate 7th Inning Stretch Competition" and conducted "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the Cubs-Astros game at Wrigley Field on Monday afternoon.

Thanks to online fan voting and celebrity judging, the Elmwood Park, Ill., native beat out more than 1,000 contestants for the honor. Palacios, 50, a Spanish-language pastor, had his 200-member congregation at the First Baptist Church of Waukegan spreading the word to vote for him at Cubs.com.

His daughters took the campaign to the Internet and the social networking Web site MySpace. Finally, one of his son's friends in the Navy gathered sailors on the USS Stennis to stuff the online ballot boxes.

Thanks in part to their help, Palacios beat out Cubs fans of all ages and from all over the country. Ten finalists were honored in a pre-game ceremony behind home plate, followed by Palacios being named the winner.

"When they called my name, it was a dream," Palacios said.

After a few handshakes, photo ops and interviews, he joined Len Kasper and Bob Brenly in the WGN-TV booth and recorded one of the best seventh-inning stretch renditions in the last 10 years.

Upon taking the microphone, the animated Palacios called for every soprano to his right and tenor to his left to join him. Together, he and 40,000 of his closest friends delivered a performance that would have made Maria Callas and Luciano Pavarotti proud.

He finished it off with the typical "Let's get some runs" and his trademark "yee-haw!"

Kasper said Palacios aced the performance.

"I know for sure he was better than Ozzy Osbourne," said Palacios' son, Ricky, referring to the rocker's rambling performance in 2003. "He's definitely in the top 10."

He sounded like a seasoned artist, but Palacios insists he only sings for fun. One of his favorite tunes is "Happy Birthday to You."

"He's not embarrassed to sing," Ricky said. "He has no shame."

Palacios first heard of the contest while watching a Cubs game on TV. Already on his computer, he entered the competition online. He came to Wrigley on July 18 for the first round of renditions and survived a cut down to 50 semifinalists and then the final 10.

Palacios had to submit an essay on why he should be chosen.

"Even my grandchildren sing along the seventh-inning stretch and the 'Go Cubs Go' song," wrote Palacios, who has two grandkids. "I can sing it at any key note without any problems."

He certainly prepared well. Palacios knew that the only way he could beat adorable children contestants in online fan voting was to give them something extra. So he added the call for tenors and sopranos and the "Yee-haw!" in his two-minute audition to make him a crowd favorite.

Then he started networking, beginning with his congregation. One member reached the vice president of a major business, who sent out a mass e-mail to rock the vote.

"All the church is praying for me," said Palacios, whose rendition may end up on YouTube because Ricky's friend was recording the telecast. "Everybody's watching. They all know about this."

Still, he had a hard time convincing his closest supporters that he was a finalist, that is, until he was invited on the field for Tuesday's game.

"I was like, 'Oh my God, he really is in this competition,'" Ricky said. "I thought he was lying."

Each finalist received a plaque, and Palacios won a silver statue trophy of legendary Cubs broadcaster Harry Caray, which he kissed on TV.

"This is still a dream," Palacios said after he finished singing. "It's unbelievable."

The 2007 winner, Dustin Eglseder, passed away from bone cancer in July.

Nick Zaccardi is an associate reporter for MLB.com. This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.

NEWS FROM ABCMC CONGREGATIONS

Eves' Day-Out

On Saturday, August 30 the women of India Baptist Telugu Church of Greater Chicago hosted "Eves' Day-Out" for Indian Christian women in the Chicago area. The women of India Baptist Telugu Church had worked hard for months to raise funds and plan the event, which was a great success.

The theme for the event was "For Such a Time as This...Esther 4:14." The all-day event took place at Four Points by Sheraton in Schiller Park. It was a day full of prayer, praise, singing, fun, listening to speakers, conversation, and sharing friendship among women from a number of different Telugu-speaking churches, as well as others.

The program drew on the Old Testament book Esther, and reflected on the courage of Esther in that book. Sandra Lee, president of the Asian Caucus of ABCUSA presented an overview of the book.

Chosen Glory Zadda, a member of India Baptist Telugu Church, shared reflections on Esther, and found parallels between Esther's situation and that of contemporary Christian Indian women. Like Esther, today's women find themselves needing to examine themselves, and recognize how God has blessed them. Like Esther, who became a queen in Persia when her fellow Hebrews were experiencing persecution, Today's women are in a time of crisis. Glory reflected on the current crisis of Christians in Orissa, India, where some are losing their possessions, homes, and even their lives to Hindu extremists. Like Esther, today's women find themselves needing to be committed and to take action. Also like Esther, when God turns crisis into joy, women today have times of celebration.

When the group gathered for lunch, Lynne Kelley of the ABCMC staff brought greetings from the region, and congratulated the church on their successful event. Although it was the first such event the church had ever had, it went as smoothly as if they had been doing this sort of thing for years. The women honored each of the speakers for the day with a silk shawl and bouquet of flowers. They also honored Thara Chandran with a silk shawl and bouquet as well as a certificate of appreciation. Mrs. Chandran and her late husband were founders of the congregation. Now Mrs. Chandran is everyone's "auntie." The women also expressed appreciation for Mahala Johnson, who had worked hard on bringing the conference into being, and to Pramila Gonu, coordinator for the event, and wife of the church's pastor, Rajamani Gonu. Pramila Gonu is also a daughter of Thara Chandran.

Valentine Royal Thomas, Executive Director of ABCUSA Women in Ministry, was the preacher and leader at the worship service that closed the day. She inspired those present with insights from Esther, and

reflections on women's ministries today. She led the group in sharing communion. At the close of communion, Valentine had the women gather in pairs, and each woman was given a small tiara. Each woman was crowned a daughter of the King of Heaven.

Revival at Community Church of Wilmette

The Community Church of Wilmette invites us to be revived in God's justice and mercy at a three-day revival, September 5-7. On Friday evening, September 5, at 7:30 p.m., ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield will be the preacher. On Saturday evening, following a pot-luck supper at 6 p.m., Alice Greene, pastor of Irving Park Baptist Church, will be the guest preacher. On Sunday morning, the church's pastor Tripp Hudgins will be the preacher at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Charles Clency at First Baptist Church of Waukegan



Gospel recording artist **DR. C. CHARLES CLENCY** will be leading worship at First Baptist church of Waukegan along with a gospel choir composed of singers from the church this Sunday, September 7. The service will be at 10 a.m. The church is at 401 N. Genesee Street, Waukegan. Parking is available on Sheridan Road, behind the church.

A gifted organist, pianist, and conductor, Clency was accompanist-arranger for the gospel singer Mahalia Jackson. He later produced six recording albums with his own 60-singer Voices of Melody, which gained national renown for their choral diversity and excellence.

Homecoming Sunday at Morgan Park

Homecoming Sunday at Morgan Park Baptist Church will be September 7. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School for all ages. The worship service will be at 11 a.m. After worship, everyone is invited to stay for a fried chicken dinner. Please make dinner reservations by calling the church office at 773-445-9443. The church is at 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago.

Rally Day in Flint

Woodside Church, 1509 E. Court Street, Flint, Michigan will begin their fall programs with Rally Day. This event will take place at the church on Sunday, September 7. The day will have a luau theme, complete with a pig roast and outdoor fellowship. All are welcome.

Rally Day in Mount Prospect

The South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, will have Rally Day on September 7. Sunday School will resume that day.

Rally Day at North Shore

September 7 will be Rally Day at North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago. Members are invited to gather in Howell Hall during Fellowship Time to register for the new program year.

Annual Homecoming Celebration

Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, will host their Annual Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, September 14. Festivities will begin with breakfast at 9 a.m. Jim Byrne will be

the chef. The worship service will follow at 11 a.m. All are welcome. Please contact the church at 773-286-6800 to make breakfast reservations.

Dr. Hatch's 15th Anniversary



New Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Marshall E. Hatch, Sr. as their pastor. Marshall Hatch is the 2008 recipient of ABCMC's Esther Davis Award in Ministries of Social Justice. The celebration will take place September 9-16. On Sunday, September 14, the church will have a special anniversary Sunday service. ABCMC's Executive Minister Larry Greenfield will be the guest preacher. The service will begin at 11 a.m. Congratulations to congregation and pastor!

Back to School Bash



On Sunday, September 14, Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, will say to the neighborhood, "Hey! We're here!" All around the church grounds that day from 1 to 3 p.m. the church will host a "Back to School Bash" with music, ice cream, information about the church, and carnival type games with school supplies as prizes. All are welcome.

South Church to Install Pastor

The South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, will install Rick Kesler as pastor on Sunday September 21 at their regular worship service time, 10:30 a.m.

Blessing of the Animals



At 3:30 on the afternoon of Sunday, September 28, the Federated Church of Wauconda will hold a brief worship service in the back yard of the parsonage, and thank God for their animal companions. Each pet will be introduced and blessed with prayer. Water and treats for cats and dogs will be served.

175th Anniversary Year Celebrations

This invitation is from the First Baptist Church of Chicago.

The First Baptist Church of Chicago will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary during 2008. Please join as we celebrate.

Our Anniversary Sunday, October 12 at 11 a.m. Dr. Michael Thomas, the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary will be our guest speaker. On that Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. our guest speaker will be Rev. Reginald Bachus, Pastor of the historic Friendship Baptist Church of Chicago.

Dr. Roy Medley, the General Secretary of ABCUSA, will be our guest speaker on December 14 at 11 a.m.

Morgan Park to Install New Pastor

Thomas Aldworth will be installed as pastor of Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago on Sunday, October 26. The service will take place at the church at 3 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pray for Christians in India

The Federation of South Asian Christians in America invites us all to an [Urgent United Prayer Service](#) for victimized Christians in Orissa State in India. The service will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 5 at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario, Oak Park, IL 60302.

Those in attendance will pray earnestly for the persecuted Christians in Orissa, where several persons have been reported killed and brutally tortured. Churches and homes there have been destroyed by extremist Hindu groups. Leaders at the prayer service will share the latest update on the situation.

David Sagar, pastor of ABCMC's Antioch Telugu Baptist Church, is a member of the board of The Federation of South Asian Christians in America.

An invitation to this event is attached to this issue of *eWind*.

Indian Christian Festival

On Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20, the United Indian Community Churches of Greater Chicago will host an **Indian Christian Festival**. On Friday and Saturday evenings, the festival will be at Mather High School, 5935 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago. Celebration will continue on Sunday morning, September 21 at 10:30 a.m. with the worship service at India Mission Telugu Methodist Church, 1049 S. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park. International evangelist Anil Kumar will be the guest preacher. He is the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, India.

A Better Day 2008

Treat yourself on September 20 to a day of lively interaction on topics that are vital to creating "A Better Day" for our world. Come to this one-day "fest" to identify, connect, and support learning and collaboration among groups and individuals working on peace, justice, and ecological sustainability issues.

We are faced with serious national and global problems: violence and militarism, social and economic injustice, and challenges to environmental sustainability. At this event we can share ideas and forge connections with each other to fuel our hopes and strengthen our effectiveness.

Hear how peace, justice and the environment are shaping our future on a global level; gain insights into our health care system; and learn about remarkable "green" initiatives being done right in our local community. The guest speakers will make us think, start dialogues that matter, and help us consider ways we can take action on the big issues that challenge us. In addition to speakers, the day will include exhibits and advocates from a number of different community organizations.

The event will take place 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, 1025 Smith Street, Palatine. Lunch will be available on-site for a modest fee. The suggested donation for attendance

is \$10. For more information about speakers, schedule and registration, please visit www.better-day.info, or email info@better-day.info. The event is sponsored by the Adult Faith Development Council of Countryside Church. Everyone is welcome.

Summit for Criminal Justice Reform

Community Renewal survey data that indicates a solid majority of Illinois voters believe the best criminal justice policies are those that seek to reduce and prevent crime through education and rehabilitation, such as job training and treatment for substance abuse.

Conducted by political scientist Tari Renner, Ph.D., for Community Renewal, the survey mirrors results of recent national surveys that indicate overwhelming public support for rehabilitation and other options for prisoners both during and after release from prison.

In October there will be a faith summit for criminal justice reform in Illinois. The Community Renewal Society urges you to attend.

The purpose of the Faith Summit is to more fully engage Illinois' religious community in a strong show of support for significant reform of our criminal justice system.

At the event we will:

- Unveil a statement of shared values as a blue-print for ongoing criminal justice reform
- Demonstrate broad and deep support and a growing constituency for change
- Secure commitments from policy-makers and leaders to advance specific criminal justice reforms

TAKE ACTION!

Call for a Criminal Justice System Based on Restoration, Rehabilitation, and Healing!
Sign the Statement of People of Faith on the Transformation of the Illinois Criminal Justice System.
People of faith in Illinois are calling for a justice system rooted in the principles of restoration, rehabilitation, and healing. Your voice is needed. On October 5th, Illinois faith communities and the Community Renewal Society will convene the first ever Faith Summit for Criminal Justice Reform to lay out a new vision for our broken criminal justice system. Take action now to call for our state to turn away from vengeance and take a stand for restoration, rehabilitation, and healing:

- 1) Sign the statement
- 2) Register to attend the Faith Summit
- 3) Spread the Word

HERE IS THE BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUMMIT:

Faith Summit for Criminal Justice Reform
Sunday, October 5th, 2008
Resource Fair – 1:30 to 2:45 p.m.
Summit Event – 3 to 4:30P p.m.
The Forum, University of Illinois at Chicago
725 W. Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL 60608

Ample parking located two blocks west of the UIC Forum at 1135 S. Morgan St., Lot 5.

Charting Self

Charting Self, a monthly series grounded in Bowen Family Systems Theory and focusing on the *Beliefs Chart*, will be held at First Presbyterian Church in La Grange beginning in September. Sessions will continue through May. Registrations are limited to 15.

Through the construction of their own *Beliefs Chart*, participants will explore how emotional process may have influenced the shaping of their beliefs. Upon completion of the series, participants will also be able to use the **Charting Self** curriculum in their own teaching.

For a fuller description of the series, please see the attached brochure, or go to <http://www.beliefschart.org/Charting%20Self%20CFC%20Series%20Brochure.pdf> to open and print a registration brochure.

Citizen Action/Illinois to Honor Lisa Madigan

On Friday, Sept 12 Citizen Action/Illinois will have their Annual Dinner & Fundraiser. The organization is engaged in a number of efforts for reform and social justice throughout the state. This year the organization will honor Attorney General Lisa Madigan, who is a hard-working advocate for families, workers and consumers in Illinois. Citizen Action/Illinois says that Madigan “has aggressively fought to protect” the rights of Illinois citizens “in battles for environmental protections, predatory mortgage and payday loan reform, fair utility rates, and the rights of seniors, women and children.”

The dinner will take place at The Chicago Hilton and Towers Grand Ballroom, 720 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago. There will be a reception at 5:30 p.m. The dinner and program will be at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$150 each. To reserve your ticket, please phone Hannah at 312-427-2114, extension 203.

NBTS to Have Multiple Locations

This article is from Greg Henson, Executive Director of advancement and enrollment at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Today's seminary students carry a full load.

Many hold part-time positions at churches, work a full-time job, and manage a full family life — while also attending seminary! Added to that, most students are commuters whose time shrinks even more because of a lengthy commute.

Students are increasingly seeking an education they can fit into their hectic lifestyle. That's why Northern Seminary is expanding its reach with satellite campuses in the Chicago-land area and online courses to deliver theological education to seminary students where they are.

For students seeking easier access to theological education, there will be four locations from which to choose and online courses:

- Lombard, IL — 660 East Butterfield Road
- Elgin, IL — 411 W River Road
- Lawndale, IL — 3827 W. Ogden Avenue
- Rockford, IL — 1055 Featherstone Drive
- Online — Anytime, Anywhere

If you have any questions, call me at 630-620-2109, or email me at henson@seminary.edu. I'd love to hear from you.

ABCUSA NEWS

For additional articles from the American Baptist News Service, please visit <http://www.abc-usa.org/howweare/newsservice.aspx>.

American Baptist Alliance of Latino Churches Formed at Florida Assembly

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 08/29/08) — Hispanic and Portuguese-speaking congregations of American Baptist Churches USA established The Alliance of Latino Churches at an assembly and organizational meeting in Orlando, Fla., in July with the support of National Ministries' Executive Director Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III and Pastor Fela Barrueto, National Ministries' interim liaison for Hispanic and Portuguese-speaking churches.

A constitution and bylaws were approved by the 83 American Baptists who attended, representing ABCUSA regions where there is a great Latino presence.

Attendees also elected officers: Rev. Daniel Martínó, New London, Conn., president; Rev. Rubén N. Ortiz, Deltona, Fla., vice president; and Jaime Escobar, Elmhurst, N.Y., treasurer. The board will elect a secretary.

In addition, representatives from the five districts of The Alliance were elected: Rafael Gonzalez, Trenton, N.J. (Northeast); Rev. Dr. César O. Ayala, Miami, Fla. (Southeast); Rev. José Encarnación, Milwaukee, Wis. (Midwest); Daniel Ramírez, San Francisco, Calif. (Northwest); and Rev. Luis Zurita, Los Angeles, Calif. (Southwest).

Rev. Dr. Luciano Márquez Jr. served as assembly moderator; parliamentary services were provided by Rev. Amaury Tañón-Santos, and Pastor Carmen Echevarría served as secretary.

ABCUSA Hispanic and Portuguese caucuses were represented by their presidents, Rev. Amaury Tañón-Santos and Pastor Vanderlei Pinto, respectively.

Representatives of ABC of Puerto Rico—Rev. Dr. Cristino Díaz Montañez, executive minister, and Rev. Irma Gómez de Pastrana, president—attended as observers and a cooperative presence.

The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board provided lunch for the assembly that featured its executive director, Rev. Dr. Sumner M. Grant, as keynote speaker.

Also, the facilitating team that organized the gathering was acknowledged with gratitude by the assembly.

The Alliance (abbreviated as EFABH in Spanish) was the dream of Rev. Pablo Calzoncit, National Ministries' Hispanic coordinator until his death in October 2007. The first assembly was dedicated to his memory.

The Alliance will hold its first formal meeting at the 2009 ABCUSA Biennial in Pasadena, Calif. National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, equips individuals and builds and supports networks such as The Alliance of Latino Churches to develop Christ-centered leaders and transform persons, congregations, communities and cultures.

National Ministries Offers Resources for "Faith and Values" Voting

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 09/3/08) — Just in time for the fall election season, National Ministries offers resources for American Baptists who want to align the votes they cast in November with their Christian faith and values.

A Bible study—"Does the Bible tell me how to vote?"—explores the connections between discipleship and citizenship, and faith and politics. Perfect for adult Sunday school classes and small groups, this resource is also appropriate for individual study and enrichment. Each of the three sessions in the study includes background material and an interpretation of its biblical passage as well as a series of questions to jump start thoughtful examination and dialogue.

Also, three articles relating to political issues from the current issue of *The Christian Citizen*, "Children in Poverty: Local Churches Respond," are available as downloadable web-based resources.

- "Questions on the 'No Child Left Behind Act' for Candidates in the 2008 Federal Elections" features 10 questions for presidential and congressional candidates designed to help evaluate their understanding and support of public education and their plans for directing usage of federal education funds.
- "The 'Vote Out Poverty' Campaign" outlines a national Sojourners effort to mobilize the church and people of faith to put poverty at the top of our national political agenda and set goals for reducing poverty in the United States and around the world.
- "ABC Policy and the Political Process" again explores the relationship between faith and politics and reminds American Baptists that ABCUSA Policy Statements and Resolutions can help with applying faith insights to participation in the political process.

As the nation looks forward to the opportunity for making citizens' voices heard in the upcoming election, the American Baptist [Resolution on Citizenship in Elections](#) (8101:3/88) reminds American Baptists: "Christians ought to be among the most concerned and informed of all citizens. Church members should be encouraged to take active roles in political affairs; should help to develop informed public opinion on important local, state, national, and international issues; should judge candidates for office by their stands on important issues, past performances, and integrity, rather than by their personal appearances, campaign slogans or race, gender or religious affiliation."

To order the Bible study—"Does the Bible tell me how to vote?"—call 800-448-3766.

Visit National Ministries' Office of Governmental Relations Web pages for the articles from *The Christian Citizen* (nationalministries.org > Justice Ministries > [Office of Governmental Relations](#)).

National Ministries, American Baptist Churches USA, equips individuals and churches through public policy advocacy recommended by its Office of Governmental Relations to develop Christ-centered leaders and transform persons, congregations, communities and cultures.

NATIONAL MINISTRIES CALLS FOR 2009 BIENNIAL AWARD NOMINATIONS

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 09/3/08) — The Board of National Ministries seeks nominations for ministry awards to be presented at the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) 2009 Biennial, June 26-28, in Pasadena, Calif.

The nominations are needed for 10 national recognition awards (plus the Luke Mowbray Ecumenical Award presented by ABCUSA) that honor American Baptist individuals, congregations and organizations for exceptional faithfulness in ministry.

National Ministries proudly announces that, for these 2009 awards, nominations can be submitted online as well as by fax and mail.

Nominations for these ministry awards must be received or postmarked by October 17, 2008:

- Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace Award to an individual or church for outstanding work for peace;
- Jitsuo Morikawa Evangelism Award to a layperson for outstanding leadership in holistic evangelism;
- Rosa O. Hall Rural and Small Town Award to a pastor for exceptional effectiveness in rural ministry or small town ministry;

- Edward H. Rhoades Urban Ministry Award to a pastor for exceptional effectiveness in urban ministry;
- New Life Award to an individual or church for ministry resulting in congregational transformation;
- Richard Hoiland Local Christian Education Award to an individual for faithful, effective leadership in Christian Education;
- Luther Wesley Smith Education Award to an individual for faithful, effective leadership in strengthening Christian education at an American Baptist-related college or seminary;
- Kenneth L. Cober Regional Discipleship Award to an individual for faithful, effective leadership in discipleship education in an American Baptist region;
- Newton C. Fetter Higher Education and Campus Ministry Award to an individual for significant innovation in campus ministry;
- Religious Freedom Award to an individual, church or organization for leadership in defending God-given religious liberty for all; and
- Luke Mowbray Ecumenical Award to an individual for outstanding ecumenical work at the local, state, national or international level (presented by ABCUSA).

Beverly G. McNally of Pennington, N. J., who chairs the Board of National Ministries' Recognition and Awards Committee, says, "In presenting these awards, we recognize the invaluable contributions of American Baptists past and present who have modeled for us the way of Christ-like servanthood; who have inspired and encouraged us in our faith walk, as they have humbly shared their time, talents, and resources, all in the name of the One who came not to be served, but to serve."

Final selection of the award winners will be completed in November, so submission of nominations by the deadline is important.

Nominations submitted by mail must be postmarked by October 17; those submitted online or by e-mail or fax must be sent by October 17.

To submit nominations online, visit nationalministries.org.

Call 1-800-222-3872, ext. 2028, with questions.

HEALTH CARE NEWS

Health Care Speak-Out September 17

The Commonwealth Fund recently released a study reporting more than two in five adults report problems paying medical bills in 2007. 61% of these individuals were insured. As our health care crisis deepens its impact on individuals and families, we need to come together to create an American solution that protects both the health and financial well-being of everyone. Come be a part of our grassroots movement for Healthcare for America NOW! at a Health Care Speak-Out on September 17th. The event will take place at the Waukegan Public Library, 126 N. County Street, Waukegan at 6 p.m. A flier is attached with this issue of *eWind*. Please print it out and share it, and come to the event in Waukegan.

Waukegan and Des Plaines Community Conversations on Health Care

Illinois Campaign for Better Health Care (ICBH) will host a conversation on issues related to health care on Tuesday, September 9, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Waukegan First Congregational United Church of Christ, 320 Grand Avenue, Waukegan. ICBH will host a similar event at the same time on Wednesday, September 10, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Des Plaines at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 766 Graceland Avenue, Des Plaines. Everyone is welcome! Join others in discussing the health care crisis, learning about health care reform, and planning local advocacy action. For more information, please contact Eric Quamme, Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition, at 312- 491-8161, extension 25, or equamme@ilmaternal.org.

PEACE NEWS

BPFNA Delegation Received By Nicaraguan President

This article is from the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA).

MANAGUA, Nicaragua In a rare move, a visiting group of evangelical (Protestant) leaders from the United States were recently granted an audience with Daniel Ortega, the president of Nicaragua. It was the first such meeting Ortega had granted since his re-election to office in 2007.

The delegation was part of a larger Friendship Tour to Nicaragua sponsored by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA). The tour was arranged in part through a longtime sister congregation relationship between the Second Baptist Church of Leon, Nicaragua and the University Baptist Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was hosted by AMOS, an American Baptist rural health initiative headquartered in Managua. The tour included Baptists from across the United States: California, Texas, North Carolina, Virginia, Vermont and Minnesota.

The group met with President Ortega and First Lady Rosario Murillo and assembled guests in Managua on August 21.

As a result of the unexpected invitation, the BPFNA delegation was able to include, as their guests, representatives of the several groups they had been working with earlier in their stay including leaders of a group working for justice for victims of the pesticide Nemagon and leaders of other groups working for social justice.

Spokesperson for the delegation was LeDayne McLeese Polaski, BPFNA Program Coordinator. During the meeting in the Nicaraguan capitol, Polaski spoke of the Fellowship's desire to learn from its visit to Nicaragua, and took time to introduce the extra invited guests as "our teachers." "We are grateful to them and to all those who have in their hearts a true concern for and a true commitment to the struggle for justice," she added.

The meeting was broadcast live on Radio Nicaragua and was covered extensively on Nicaraguan television and in the press.

Polaski later spoke of the group's "gratitude for the opportunity to speak directly to President Ortega" about its concerns and of their "thanks for being received with such hospitality."

The full text of the message delivered to President Ortega and the dispatches sent from the BPFNA Friendship Tour are available at: www.bpfna.org/nicaragua2008

Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America is a membership organization of Baptist individuals and congregations united in their concerns for issues of peace and justice.

Northwest Suburban Meeting

The Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 10. The meeting will take place at the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, at 7 p.m. At this meeting the group will finalize fall plans for District 214 high schools. All are invited to attend.

Anti-War Gathering

We are all invited to a neighborhood anti-war action this Saturday at noon, September 6, at Lawrence and Kimball. Placards will be available, and there will be leaflets for distribution. This is a regular event, and the group gets

outstanding honks from passing vehicles and good support from passersby. They can always use more help. They often meet for discussion afterwards.

Suburban Peace Vigils

There will be a peace vigil in **Arlington Heights** at the intersection of Northwest Highway and Arlington Heights Road, 3-4 p.m., on Saturday, September 13. Families with children, high school and college students and military families are welcome. The site is accessible. Signs are welcome. The vigil is sponsored by: [Families for Peace](#), [Sisters of the Living Word](#), [The Viatorian Community](#) and [Women's Resource Center](#).

There will be a peace vigil in **Palatine** at the intersection of Hicks Road and Northwest Highway, 3-4 p.m., on Saturday, September 20. The vigil will take place at the Volunteer Plaza where the clock tower is. Parking is available across the street in the large strip mall that contains Ace Hardware and Sparrow's Nest Thrift Shop. We are not to park in the lot behind the Volunteer Plaza. *Be very careful crossing the street!* The vigil is sponsored by Palatine for Peace.

MINISTERS COUNCIL NEWS

Ministers Council Dues

Dues for 2008 must be paid no later than September 30. If you still need to pay your membership dues, please send \$45 to Sara Day, ABCMC's Ministers Council treasurer, at Rev. Dr. Sara E. Day, CFP@
The Ministers & Missionaries Benefit Board
2205 S. Wolf Rd. #281
Hillside, IL 60162
(This is a new address.)

If you have any questions about dues, please contact Sara by email at sara.day@mmbb.org or by phone at 800.531.1940.

ABCMC Ministers Council September Meeting

The Ministers Council of ABCMC will have an afternoon meeting at Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston, on Thursday, September 25, 4:30-6:00 p.m. The program for the meeting will include discussing with Bob Thompson, pastor of Lake Street Church, his recently published book, *A Voluptuous God*.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for World peace.

Please pray for everyone—teachers and students and others—returning to school this season. Please pray for guidance and energy in helping Illinois finding more just ways for funding public education.

Please pray for Christians being terrorized and persecuted in Orissa state in India. If possible, please attend and participate in the prayer service for them at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 5.

Please pray for the family of Rev. Rubén Santana Mateo, who was killed along with 152 others in a plane crash on August 20 in Madrid, Spain. Rev. Mateo served as a missionary, along with his wife, Mari Carmen Hernández León, in Madrid's Northern Sierra. His ministry was supported by the Ministry of

Evangelization and Missions of the Spanish Baptist Evangelical Union, which is a partner with ABC's International Ministries.

Please pray for ABC missionaries Iris and Mario Morales, who have served in Bolivia for the past seven years, and who now will also work with ABC International Ministries in the recruitment of new missionaries.

Please pray for Anita and Rick Gutierrez, ABC missionaries in South Africa, where they are helping plant new churches, as well as helping persons who are dealing with a variety of health challenges, including those associated with cardiovascular diseases, HIV and diabetes.

Please pray for our denomination, and leaders who are working on the process of restructuring national governance to meet current and future needs and resources.

CALENDAR

September 4-7--Many Stories One Voice Conference, New Orleans. Please visit web site, www.manystoriesonevoice.org.

September 5—Prayer service for victimized Christians in Orissa, India at First Baptist Church of Oak Park, 820 Ontario Street, Oak Park 7 p.m.

September 5—Larry Greenfield preaches at revival service, Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, 7:30 p.m.

September 6—North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood Avenue, Chicago, participates in LBRC Annual Yard Sale, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

September 6—Alice Greene preaches at revival service, Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, following pot-luck supper at 6 p.m.

September 7—Charles Clency leads worship with gospel choir, First Baptist Church, 401 N. Genesee Street, Waukegan, 10 a.m.

September 7—Homecoming Sunday, Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. worship, 12:15 p.m. fried chicken dinner.

September 7—Rally Day at South Church in Mount Prospect and Woodside Church in Flint Michigan.

September 7—Tripp Hudgins preaches at revival and communion service, Community Church of Wilmette, 1020 Forest Avenue, Wilmette, 10:30 a.m.

September 10—Northwest Suburban Peace and Education Project meeting, South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 7 p.m.

13 de septiembre--Junta de los pastores hispánicos, Iglesia Bautista Central, 2417 N. Campbell, Chicago, 9 a.m.

September 14—Homecoming Celebration, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, 9 a.m. breakfast, 11 a.m. worship service.

September 14—Celebration of the 15th anniversary of Marshall Hatch as pastor of New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church; Larry Greenfield preaches at New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, 5301 W. Washington Boulevard, Chicago, 11 a.m.

September 14—Back to School Bash, Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11024 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

September 16--Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

September 19-21—Indian Christian Festival, featuring evangelist Anil Kumar from India. Friday and Saturday evenings, Mather High School, 5835 N. Lincoln, Chicago, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday morning, India Mission Telugu Methodist Church, 1049 S. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park, 10:30 a.m.

September 20—A Better Day 2008, Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, 1025 Smith Street, Palatine, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

September 20—Third Annual ABCMC Stewardship Seminar, Third Baptist Church of Chicago, Heritage Plaza Center, 1500 W. 95th Street, Chicago, 9 a.m.-Noon.

September 21—Christian Education Sunday.

September 21—Installation of Rick Kesler as pastor of the South Church, 501 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, 10:30 a.m.

September 21--ABCMC Sunday, Irving Park Baptist Church, 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago; Larry Greenfield preaching, 11 a.m.

September 25--Ministers Council meeting, Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston, 4:30-6 p.m.

September 28—ABCMC Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Park Forest, 80 N. Orchard, Park Forest; Larry Greenfield preaches, 11 a.m.

October 3-5—ABCMC Renewal Conference with focus on the Holy Spirit.

October 5—Faith Summit for Criminal Justice Reform: Resource Fair – 1:30-2:45 p.m.; Summit Event – 3-4:30 p.m.; The Forum, University of Illinois at Chicago, 725 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago.

October 12—Memorial service for Andrew Kmetko, First Baptist Church of Park Ridge, 1266 N. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, 3 p.m.

October 12—ABCMC Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Berwyn, 6916 W. 34th Street, Berwyn; Larry Greenfield preaches.

October 17-19--Health Care Sabbath. Please contact Eric Quamme (equamme@ilmaternal.org) for more information.

October 21--Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

October 21-22—Conference of Baptist Leaders from Burma, October 21-22, at the Chin Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

October 26—Installation of Thomas Aldworth as pastor of Morgan Park Baptist Church, 11025 S. Bell Avenue, Chicago, 3 p.m.

November 1—Workshop with Ken Medema, Rockford. For more information, please contact Mark Vincent by e-mail: marklv@DesignForMinistry.com or marklv@DesignForBusinessIntl.com or phone: 877-771-3330 or 888-463-9995.

November 7-8--ABCMC Annual Meeting.

November 12—Kids Hope United Annual Dinner, law firm of Drinker Biddle, 191 North Wacker Drive, Suite 3700, Chicago (in the Loop), 6 p.m.

November 18--Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

December 20--Finance and Property Committee meeting, Wunderlich Securities office, 200 W. Madison, Suite 2950, Chicago, 3 p.m.

The Metro Chicago *eWind* is an electronic communication intended for the people of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. The events publicized herein do not necessarily express the opinions of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago. We email the newsletter each Wednesday. We welcome your news, prayer requests and comments. Please email your communications to the editor, Lynne Kelley, at lynne@abcmc.org. If you spot a typographical error or other mistake in *eWind*, please let us know at the ABCMC office, 773-804-1655. The ABCMC office is at 7035 W. Grand Avenue, Suite 102, Chicago, Illinois 60707